

Balades sur les Crêtes

Hauts de Crêtes & Val de Vence

Don't miss !

Domaine de Vendresse

On the site of an old blast furnace (classified monument since 1972), pride of the Ardennes in the 19th century, they arranged a leisure parc for everybody. (playground, sound and light spectacle, troutfishing...)

Architectural heritage in La Cassine

The old church and the convent of the Cordeliers were classified in 1930. The old Castle of the village is not classified but is each summer the site of many celebrations.

Religious heritage in Vendresse

Saint Martin church, classified as historical monument in 1972.

Arboretum of « Bois de la Vierge »

This arboretum has many trees of local species and a stunning driveway of Douglas trees.



Some summer activities...

Son et Lumière in La Cassine

Sound and light spectacle : nearly 150 volunteers participate in this spectacle in La Cassine. Mobile and covered benches bring you into a fascinating univers.



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Ah... Vendresse, La Cassine... his history, his summer animations...

Discover the heritage of Vendresse and of La Cassine with pathway n°15.

This walk in the heart of these two villages will lead you on the steps of marquis de Carabas.

Discover also the castle of La Cassine (site of theatre in summer), the domaine de Vendresse (essential tourism site of the Crêtes Préardennaises) and take advantage of the Canal des Ardennes or the arboretum of « Bois de la Vierge » to extend your route.



On the steps of the Marquis of Carabas



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On the steps of the Marquis of Carabas



Parking area :

Vendresse, Domaine touristique de Vendresse.

Follow the directional pillars arranged in the village.

At the starting panel, turn right to the centre of **Vendresse**.

At the crossroad, take the direction of the arboretum of « bois de la Vierge ».

Go up the coast, pass near the castle and turn right « Rue des Effosses » at the second intersection. Turn left into an alleyway between the houses.

Down this alley, turn left into the street« Rue Paon ». Rejoin « Rue Tabure » and turn right to rejoin the main road.

At the stop sign, turn right in the direction of the church. Just before it, turn left. At the games area, turn left « Rue de la gare ».

Pass over the river and turn right to pass the bridge. Continue straight on to reach your starting point.

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Parking area :

La Cassine, at the church.

Starting from the church, in front of the castle of La Cassine, turn left to the castle of the Concierge.

Before the exit of the village, turn right « Rue de l'écluse ». Pass before the castle of the Concierge.

At the lock you can take a break on the picnic tables. You can also extend your trip along the Canal des Ardennes.

Go back and return to the castle of the Concierge. Turn left and then turn right to arrive in the street the most on the left behind the church. Turn left again to go back to the church and to reach your starting point.

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Jean-Nicolas Gendarme

Jean-Nicolas Gendarme (1769-1845) is one of the best-known masters of forges in the history of the Ardennes metallurgy. Son of a master ironworker, he gradually acquired technical knowledge from his father who encouraged him to throw himself with body and soul in the development of metallurgical activity. Aware that water and forests are the cornerstone of the development of this activity, he prevents its competitors to settle by buying one by one the main streams of the Ardennes . This acquisition comes along with the acquisition of many mills and forest areas. This possession allows him to position himself as a key partner and thus to "forge" a huge fortune.

It was said in the time that "Gendarme, when leaving his fiefdom of Vrigneaux-Bois, he could cross the department of the Ardennes from the East to the West without crossing the field of others ". In 1816, he acquired the domain of Vendresse and make become itone of the major blast of the Ardennes steel. His undisputed reign ended in 1845 when he died at the age of 76. He leaves to his 3 daughters a heritage estimated between 10 and 12 million francs at the time. Charles Didier, husband of Aglaë Hannonet (granddaughter of Jean Nicolas Constable), claimed that Jean-Nicolas was « the marquis of Carabas of the Ardennes department ».



Easy



Average



Difficult

Waymarked paths



different way

